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Representative
LYLA B. BERG
House of Representatives

415 S. Beretania St., Rm. 324
Honolulu, HI 96813



Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

As your Representative to the Hawaii State Legislature, I thank you for the privilege of serving you these past two years. Growing up in Kahala and raising my son in our District has given me many experiences and much knowledge with which to be a vocal advocate for the needs and concerns directly affecting our community.

During this session, I continued to participate on the legislative Task Force on Sustainability, and I was able to guide the legislation for our youngest family members through the Early Childhood Education Task Force. I have enjoyed bringing my independent thinking, educational background, parental views, and energy into the legislative process on your behalf.

I look forward to conversing with you further as I walk our district, again, in the next few months. I am enthusiastic by the collaboration and collective commitment that I have experienced over the past two years, and thank you again, for the honor to serve you. Please feel free to contact my office with any questions or concerns that may arise.

With warmest aloha,

Tyla Berg
State Representative
18th District

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

State Representative Lyla Berg

Vice-Chairman, House Committee on Education • Assistant Majority Floor Leader
Member: Energy and Environment; Water, Land and Ocean Resources;
Hawaiian Affairs; Higher Education; Policy

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JULY/AUGUST 2006

It has been an eventful year of learning, service, and opportunities for Representative Berg. In addition to her legislative responsibilities, she participated in international discussions and national deliberations, as well as local outreach efforts, for the purpose of creating collaborative partnerships. Her mission continues to assist Hawaii in moving toward a more prosperous economy in a healthier environment. Increased community engagement and an education system that serves the needs of all children, beginning with our youngest and most vulnerable remain top priorities. To this end, Representative Berg was recognized with the following:

- Liberty Bell Award, Hawaii State Bar Association for meritorious community service (2005)
- Invitee to the Interparliamentarian Meeting on Indigenous Peoples hosted by the Interparliamentarian Union of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland (2005)
- Flemming Fellow in the Leadership Institute of the Center for Policy Alternatives (2006)
- Invitee to the Women's Leadership Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government in Harvard University, Boston (2006)
- Delegation member to the Early Childhood Education Institute sponsored by the National Conference on State Legislatures (2006)
- Facilitator for the Hawaii Delegation to The Congressional Conferences on Civic Education in Washington, D.C. (2005, 2006)
- Honorary Member, Alpha Delta Kappa Educational Women's Sorority

SAVE THE DATE!!

East Honolulu Community Meeting

Expert panel will speak on “Economic Prosperity for Hawaii”

Monday, Aug. 28, 2006
7 – 9 p.m.
Kahala Elementary School
Cafetorium



Rep. Berg with classmate Senatseur Aloysie Inyumba of the Republic of Rwanda at the JFK School of Government leadership program.

18th District Community Survey Results

Earlier this year, residents in the 18th District were given the opportunity to comment on some of the issues facing our State, including distribution of the \$600 million surplus. The results were as follows:

Issue	Yes	No
Do you support utilizing some of the budget surplus to provide transition funds for schools that are receiving less money under the weighted student formula?	62.7%	37.3%
Do you support utilizing some of the budget surplus for providing various types of early learning programs?	71.2%	28.8%
Would you support state funding to be used to assist the community colleges in new initiatives?	65.6%	34.4%
Do you support the installation of photovoltaic systems in our schools?	96.1%	3.9%
Do you support the use of tax credits for homes and businesses that build photovoltaic, wind or other renewable energy systems for their buildings?	90.8%	9.2%
Do you support the selling of state land to private developers?	15.2%	84.8%
Do you support using more state funds to purchase "legacy lands" that have a cultural or historic significance for Hawaii's future, such as Waimea Valley?	76.6%	23.4%
Do you support the requirement that public buildings meet the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) minimum standards for energy efficiency?	92.9%	7.1%

Highlights

The Legislature passed a balanced budget and took a prudent long-term approach to spending the reserve funds for future needs and included a modest increase in spending to benefit Hawaii's people (Act 160).

Tax Measures

The Legislature expanded income tax brackets by 20% and raised the standard deduction for taxpayers to 40% of the federal level. This measure is intended to create a fairer tax structure and provide tax savings for low and middle-income taxpayers.

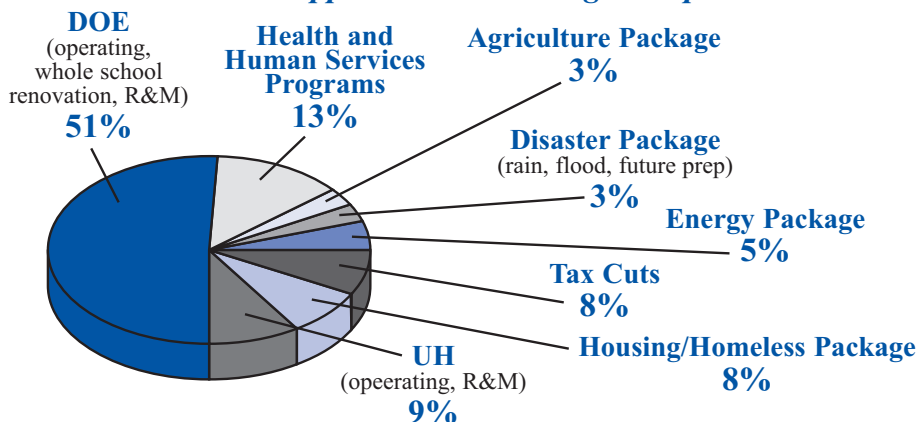


Rep. Berg with House Chairs Scott Saiki (Hawaiian Affairs) and Tommy Waters (Higher Education) on Kaho'olawe during a reforestation project.

Health Care

Rep. Berg supported the State Pharmacy Assistance Program to expand the number of eligible people in households with incomes at or below 150% of the federal poverty level and allow persons in the Medicaid drug benefits program to enroll, as well. The Legislature established the Hawaii Children's Health Care Program to provide health care coverage to all uninsured children through a partnership between the State and a mutual benefit society. The initial partner will be the Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA). Also funded are new community-based dental health clinics to enable easier access to licensed dentists. The Legislature approved \$11 million for preparations against an influenza pandemic and provided the Dept. of Health with the necessary resources to maintain the Emergency Response Stockpile.

What Happened To The Budget Surplus?



of the 2006 Session

Disaster Preparedness and Response

The Legislature acted quickly to provide emergency relief totaling \$62 million for damages and weakened infrastructure caused by heavy rains and flooding statewide. The funds will go towards restoring and stabilizing land slopes, repairing drainage systems and highways, assessing the structural integrity of dams, and to investigate the legal issues related to dam failures. A tax credit for individuals whose property was damaged by the floods was also passed, in addition to a measure which allows Hawaii to receive emergency aid from other states by becoming a member of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. Rep. Berg was instrumental in securing \$250,000 as the State's share of matching funds for the Kuliouou Stream Flood Control Project.

Public Safety and Consumer Protection

Laws were strengthened to provide protection from persons who commit crimes against minors by providing a mandatory sentence for persons convicted of Electronic Enticement of a Child (EEC) and adding the offense to the list of Class C felonies subject to repeat offender sentencing.

Legislation was also passed to revamp Hawaii electronic surveillance laws to enhance criminal investigation tools and allow the use of federal evidence while

protecting individual privacy rights. Included is the expansion of authorized wire, oral or electronic surveillance in cases involving distribution of drugs and money laundering by organized crime.

Another key bill passed through the Legislature that would establish a mandatory sentence of 30 years to life for felons who are convicted for the third time of any of the following crimes of violence: murder, manslaughter, first degree assault, kidnapping, first or second degree sexual assault, continuous sexual assault of a minor, first or second degree robbery and first degree burglary.

Public safety on Hawaii's roads was addressed through legislation that created a criminal offense for excessive speeding and authorizes additional consequences for underage drinking and intoxicated driving. With the dramatic rise of identity theft cases due to misuse of unprotected private information, laws were passed to prohibit businesses from disclosing, printing, selling or transmitting Social Security numbers to the general public or to third parties. Victims of identity theft will now be allowed to place a freeze on their credit reports.

Energy Self-Sufficiency

Rep. Berg supported legislation to indefinitely suspend the gas "cap" and allow the Governor to reinstate the law only to benefit the economic well-being, health and safety of the people of Hawaii. Included is the establishment of a Petroleum Industry Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Program that requires the petroleum industry to provide gasoline pricing information to the public. The intent is to expand reporting requirements, discourage unscrupulous pricing, prohibit unfair trade practices and provide penalties.

The Legislature also provided a comprehensive approach to reduce Hawaii's dependence on oil and achieve energy self-sufficiency by encouraging use of alternative fuels, such as bio-diesel and ethanol, and increasing the Renewable Energy Technology Tax Credit. State agencies are now required to use "green building" practices for the construction or renovation of state buildings, to purchase fuel efficient vehicles, use energy-efficient equipment and practices, implement water conservation strategies, and purchase environmentally supportive products.



Rep. Lyla Berg asks a question during a House Higher Education Committee hearing held on the UH Manoa Campus, February 2, 2006.

Viability of Agriculture

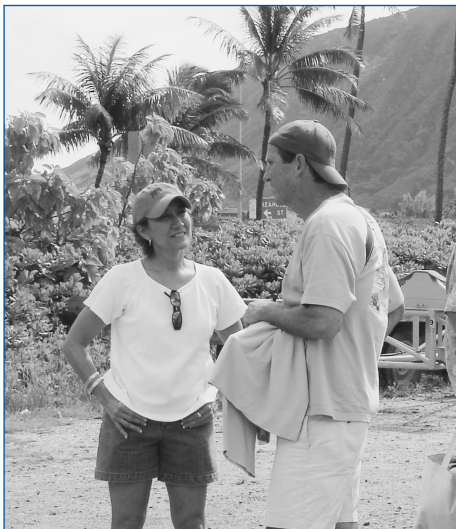
Agriculture was recognized as an increasingly essential component of Hawaii's economic prosperity to enable our State to become more sustainable and self-sufficient. To this end, Rep. Berg supported legislation to identify and protect important agricultural lands. The Legislature appropriated \$12 million to repair and maintain high priority irrigation systems in order to assist current and future Hawaii farmers. A special fund was established for the control of invasive species on all islands, and legislation was passed to promote and protect agricultural research and market development to be conducted by the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation. Rep. Berg introduced legislation for the Dept. of Agriculture to apply the "precautionary principle" in evaluating permit applications.

Affordable Housing and the Homeless

The Legislature passed the 2006 Housing Omnibus Bill which appropriates \$50 million to ease Hawaii's affordable housing and homeless crisis -- \$20 million was given to develop temporary emergency shelters and transitional housing for the homeless, and \$10 million was designated to make vacant public housing units inhabitable. The Omnibus Bill also increased the conveyance tax allocation on the Rental Housing Trust Fund from 30% to 50% for one year. \$1,500,000 was appropriated for land acquisition of Kulana Nani in Kaneohe, Oahu, to be retained as affordable housing for or below the current income restrictions.

Protecting and Perpetuating Natural Resources

Preserving the environmental, historical, and cultural identity of Waimea Valley



Rep. Berg working with constituents on the Limu Project in Maunalua Bay.

Highlights of the 2006 Session *continued from page 3*

was a priority of the Legislature with an emergency appropriation of \$1.6 million as the State's contribution in a collaborative purchase with other government and private agencies.

Legislation also passed to prevent the sale of certain state lands in the Kakaako Community Development District. Rep. Berg introduced two measures calling for a five-year moratorium on the sale of all public lands, as well as to pause the construction of golf courses, until a comprehensive needs assessment could be conducted. Rep. Berg also proposed legislation to prohibit fresh drinking water as the means of irrigation on any new golf courses to be constructed and for bioremediation strategies to be the first course of action in restoring fresh water sources to a healthy condition.

Developing and Supporting our Workforce

Legislation was passed to address the workforce shortages caused by the construction boom and to support efforts in developing a skilled workforce by appropriating \$10 million from the State's federal Reed Act Fund to the Workforce Development Council for employer outreach services, capacity building, and additional resources. Adequate compensation for substitute teachers was addressed by appropriating funds to increase the minimum hourly and per diem rates for substitute teachers. A vocational agriculture education program in the DOE was created, as well as a Construction Academy within the community college system to develop the construction industry workforce and a scholarship and assistance fund to encourage Hawaii residents to pursue post secondary education.

Early Childhood Education

Rep. Berg worked with the early childhood community on legislation to enhance existing services for Kindergarten in all public schools statewide, increase funding to build Early Head Start and Head Start programs, and to add 4 new program sites for parent education. Additionally, significant funds were appropriated to develop the framework and plan for a comprehensive early learning system (Act 259).

Charter Schools

Legislation was passed to further enable Charter Schools to become more viable, successful components of the DOE public school system (SB 2719).



Rep. Berg speaking to elementary students in the gallery of the House Chambers.

Allocations for District Schools

As Vice-Chair of the House Committee on Education, Representative Berg provided leadership to address the needs of youth and schools in the District.

The DOE received an additional \$20 million for adjustments occurring as a result of the new Weighted Student Formula. The intended use is for direct services to students in the classrooms. School Community Councils will be working with principals to determine the most appropriate utilization of funds.

School	Increased Allocation
Kahala Elementary	\$ 63,734
Wilson Elementary	\$ 74,203
Kaimuki Middle	\$ 73,978
Kalani High	\$ 88,183
Wailupe Valley Elementary	\$ 22,356
Koko Head Elementary	\$ 30,889
Hahaione Elementary	\$ 46,496
Kaimiloiki Elementary	\$ 47,190
Aina Haina Elementary	\$ 52,225
Niu Valley Middle	\$ 30,018
Kaiser High	\$ 46,364

Rep. Berg signed the legislation to appropriate \$160 million to renovate school classrooms statewide and an additional \$75 million to repair and maintain school facilities.

Classroom Renovations

School	Appropriation
Hahaione Elementary	\$ 1,942,863
Wailupe Valley Elementary	\$ 896,851
Kaiser High	\$ 2,626,871
Kaimiloiki Elementary	\$ 1,496,072
Liholiho Elementary	\$ 1,283,219
Waialae Elementary	\$ 1,393,948
Wilson Elementary	\$ 1,213,946

Repair and Maintenance

School	Appropriation
Aina Haina Elementary	\$ 299,000
Hahaione Elementary	\$ 207,000
Kahala Elementary	\$ 259,000
Niu Valley Intermediate	\$ 365,000
Wailupe Valley Elementary	\$ 65,000
Kaiser High	\$ 514,000
Kaimiloiki Elementary	\$ 92,000
Koko Head Elementary	\$ 315,000
Kaimuki Middle	\$ 391,000
Kalani High	\$ 612,000
Liholiho Elementary	\$ 62,000
Liliuokalani Elementary	\$ 183,000
Waialae Elementary	\$ 150,000
Wilson Elementary	\$ 336,000

In addition, the District received the following CIP appropriations:

- \$100,000 Playground equipment for Niu Valley
- \$100,000 Design of a gym at Niu Valley Middle School

E Ho'okauā 'Oe
Seek to Serve